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ART: KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

SPICE & WOLF

VOL. 9

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

Lawrence

A clever young merchant. Traveling in search of Holo's homeland of Yoitsu.

Holo

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.



Col

A boy saved by Lawrence at the river checkpoint. A naive but clever lad.



Eve

A mysterious merchant woman. Normally hides her face and dresses like a man.



Kieman

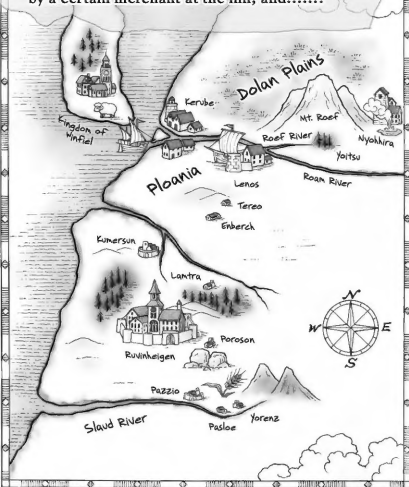
The Kerube branch chief of the trade guild that counts Lawrence as one of its members.

A cool-headed, canny businessman.



Introduction

In search of the forest of Yoitsu, Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo continue their travels. Avoiding an unstable situation in the town of Lenos, they proceed downriver toward the port town of Kerube. Along the way, they hear from a boatman about a forbidden book that tells of how to strip-mine a mountain bare. Lawrence and Holo decide to seek out the text to protect Yoitsu. Setting out to gather information in Kerube, Lawrence is approached by a certain merchant at the inn, and.....?



SPICE & WOLF

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SPICE & WOLF

KRAFT? OR
LAWRENCE?

IN
BUSINESS,
I USE
LAWRENCE.



YOU CAN
CALL ME
EVE. I'M
NONE TOO
FOND OF
"BOLAN."



IF
ANYTHING,
I'M
RATHER
TALKATIVE.

I'M
REALLY
NOT THE
QUIET
TYPE.

I'D
PLANNED
TO HIDE
IT, IF I
COULD...



I'M
STARTING TO
CHANGE MY
IMPRESSION
OF YOU.

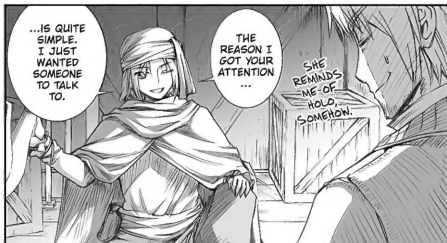
AND QUITE
COURTEOUS,
IF I DO SAY
SO MYSELF.



MERCHANTS
DON'T GET
INFATUATED
SO EASILY.
THOUGH
YOU'RE
NOT BAD-
LOOKING.
SO IT'S
NOT THAT.



MIGHT I
ASK WHY
YOU'VE
CHOSEN ME
FOR THIS
PARTICULAR
HONOR?



...IS QUITE
SIMPLE.
I JUST
WANTED
SOMEONE
TO TALK
TO.

THE
REASON I
GOT YOUR
ATTENTION
...

SHE
REMINDS
ME OF
HOLD,
SOMEHOW.



YOU HAVE
THE BOY
TOO, BUT I'M
GUESSING
HE'S A
RECENT
ADDITION?

HE'S
GOT A
GOOD
EYE FOR
PEOPLE.

THE
IMPORTANT
THING...IS
THAT OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU.

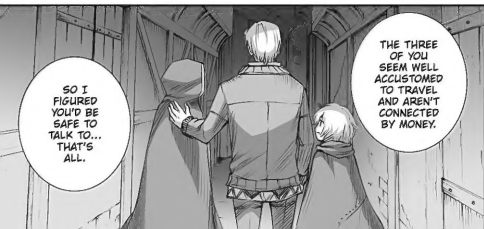


AH, THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
AROUND MY
COMPANION
ARE RATHER
COMPLICATED...



I'VE NO
INTENTION
OF PRYING.

THAT
AND YOUR
CHARMING
TRAVELING
COMPANION.

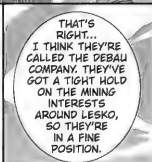


SO I
FIGURED
YOU'D BE
SAFE TO
TALK TO...
THAT'S
ALL.

THE THREE
OF YOU
SEEM WELL
ACCUSTOMED
TO TRAVEL
AND AREN'T
CONNECTED
BY MONEY.










I DEAL
WITH THE
JEAN
COMPANY
FROM TIME
TO TIME.



AREN'T
YOU A
FUNNY
FELLOW?



THEY'RE
LOOKING
FOR A BOOK
WITH A HUGE
REWARD ON
IT, THOUGH.

I WAS
THINKING
I'D USE
THAT
ANGLE.



IT'S SO
SUSPICIOUS
THAT IT'S
STRANGELY
BELIEVABLE.

A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT
CALLING ON
A COMPANY
ABOUT THE
BOOK WITH A
WOMAN AND
CHILD IN
TOW.

I'LL
WRITE YOU
A LETTER
OF INTRO-
DUCTION.



I CAN SEE
WHY OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU!



AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO ASK ME
WHAT I
DEAL IN?

.....



...YOU'D
DO THAT
FOR ME?



YOU
DIDN'T ASK
ME WHAT MY
COMPANION'S
TRADE WAS,
SO...

REMINDS
ME OF
WHEN I
FIRST
MET
HOLO.



WHAT
IS IT?



...HOW
MUCH WILL
YOUR INTRO-
DUCTION
FEE BE?

SO...



...COULD
I PUT
ANOTHER
QUESTION
TO YOU?

...INSTEAD
OF ASKING
YOU YOUR
BUSINESS...







I MIGHT
NOT LOOK
IT, BUT—



I'M
NORMALLY
WANDERING
AROUND
THE DELTA
MARKETPLACE,
SO IF YOU'RE
FREE, YOU
SHOULD COME
AND CHAT.



YOU'RE A
CHARMING
CONVER-
SATION-
ALIST.



SO
LONG
AS MY
COMPANION
DOESN'T
TURN
JEALOUS.

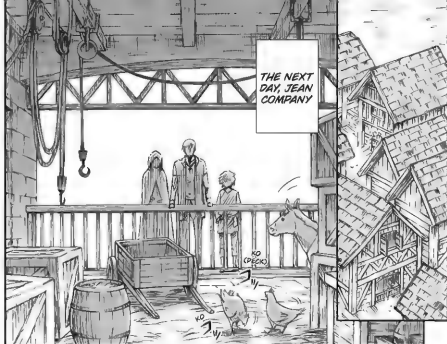
HA
HA
HA!

INDEED,
THAT'D BE
A TERRIBLE
TURN OF
EVENTS.



HEH, I
SUPPOSE
SO.

THE NEXT
DAY, JEAN
COMPANY



IS
THIS THE
PLACE...?



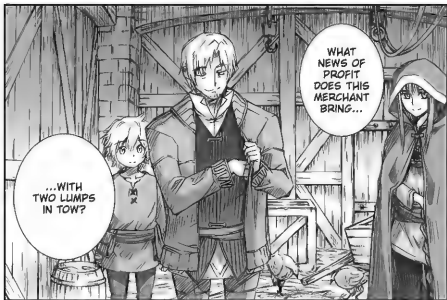
BUT IF
YOU'VE
COME TO
SELL...



IF
YOU'VE
COME TO
BUY, I
WELCOME
YOU, AND
GLADLY.









OH, MY APOLOGIES.

!

PARA (FLIP)

10



THIS.



COMPANY?

SO YOU'RE ACQUAINTED WITH THE BOLAN COMPANY, EH?

BASA (CLAP)



IN-DEED SO.

— BETTER JUST GO ALONG WITH HIM.



SHE MAY DO BUSINESS ALL ALONE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS HANGING UP A SIGN, BUT ANYONE WHO CASTS AS WIDE A NET AS SHE DOES...

...IS A SERIOUS TRADING COMPANY, DON'T YOU THINK?

WAKI CHATTER



SO,
MR. KRAFT
LAWRENCE,
HOW'D YOU
GET HER
OVER THE
FIRE, EH?

NEVER
THOUGHT A
MAN WOULD
COME IN
HERE WITH
A LETTER
FROM THAT
WOLF OF A
WOMAN.



—AH,
I SEE.
IT'S BEEN
QUITE SOME
TIME SINCE
ANYONE'S
BEEN
INTERESTED
IN THIS
STORY.

NOW,
WHAT
BRINGS
YOU
TO—

KASA
(GUFF)



THAT'S A
SECRET.



...BUT
YOU MUST
BE QUITE
SERIOUS.

SINCE
YOU WENT TO
THE TROUBLE
OF COMING
HERE BY WAY
OF EVE
BOLAN.



DOKI
(BADUO)

DOKI





I HAD
IMAGINED
HIM SLIGHTLY
YOUNGER,
BUT THIS IS
THE RIGHT
MAN...



WHERE
DID YOU
HEAR ABOUT
THE BOOK?



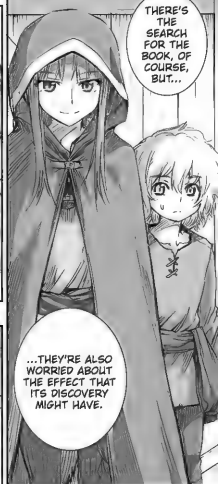
HOOH?

...ACTUALLY,
THESE TWO
ARE FROM THE
NORTHLANDS.



WELCOME,
KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

I'M THE
MASTER OF
THE JEAN
COMPANY, TED
REYNOLDS.



...AFTER
HEARING THE
RUMOR THAT
A CUSTOMER
OF MINE HAD
PUT A TRULY
REMARKABLE
PRICE ON A
CERTAIN
BOOK.

THIS...
IS THE
RESULT OF
THE EFFORT
OF ALL THE
PEOPLE
WHO SO
HELPFULLY
COOPER-
ATED...



...AND SO
MANY OF
THEM.

LETTERS
...



I WON'T LIE
TO ANYONE
BEARING
A LETTER
FROM THE
SHE-WOLF OF
THE BOLAN
HOUSE.



NNEH-
HEH!



AND BY
CUSTOMER,
YOU MEAN
THE DEBAU
COMPANY?



WHICH MEANS I
RESPECT ANYONE
SHE TRUSTS—
YOU, FOR ONE,
KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

I RESPECT
HER.



NOT AT ALL.
IF I'M THE
ONLY ONE
TALKING,
I'LL NEVER
NOTICE HOW
LONG-WINDED
I'M BEING.

I
APOLOGIZE
FOR
INTER-
RUPTING
YOUR
TALE.



AS YOU KNOW,
THEY'RE BENT
ON LEVELING
THE MOUNTAINS
AND MINING THE
REGION.

THE DEBAU
COMPANY IS
A POWERFUL
ONE, AND EVEN
NOW CONTROLS
MOST OF THE
ROAM RIVER
BASIN.



WE
MUST MEET
WHATEVER
COMES DOWN
THE RIVER,
WHATEVER
HAPPENS.



TRULY...

...NO
MATTER
THE COST,
EH?



IN
BUSINESS,
THERE
ARE OFTEN
OFFERS
YOU CAN'T
REFUSE...

...AND MY
COMPANY SITS
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE RIVER
OVER WHICH THE
GREAT SPIRIT OF
ROAM RULES.



THE
INFORMATION
I HAVE ON
THE MATTER
IS QUITE
SOLID, IF
YOU ASK
ME.

THIS
IS JUST MY
OWN GUESS, BUT
I BELIEVE THE
TOME WAS STORED
IN THE ABBEY AT
AQUENT BUT
WAS LOST
IN A FIRE
THERE.



BECAUSE
SOME
WERE
SAID
THAT
IF THE
REAL
THING
WERE
FOUND,
THEY'D
BE PAID A
THOUSAND,
TWO
THOUSAND
LUNNONS
FOR IT.

ANYWAY,
IT TURNED
INTO QUITE A
COMMOTION.



THERE WAS
A GREAT
FIRE IN
AQUENT
FOUR OR
FIVE YEARS
AGO!



SO, UM...
COULD YOU
SHOW US
ANY OF THE
LETTERS
RELATING TO
AQUENT?



OH
HOHH!

A
STUDENT,
WERE
YOU?

ZUI
CROONU

UH,
UM...

THE ONLY
THING MORE
IMPORTANT TO
A MERCHANT
THAN LIFE
ITSELF IS
INFORMATION.



OK,
BOY...

COL...



I'M
VERY
SORRY,
SIR.

PEKORI
(BOW)



THAT'S
TRUE...

AND
GIVING
IT TO YOU
YIELDS NO
BENEFIT
TO MR.
REYNOLDS.

YOU
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
AFFORD
TO PAY
WHAT THAT
INFORMATION
IS WORTH
RIGHT
NOW.



NNEH-HEH!
IF YOU'LL
BECOME MY
APPRENTICE,
I'LL SHOW
YOU AS MANY
LETTERS AS
YOU LIKE.

NNEH-
HEH!

NNEH-
HEH!

HEH!



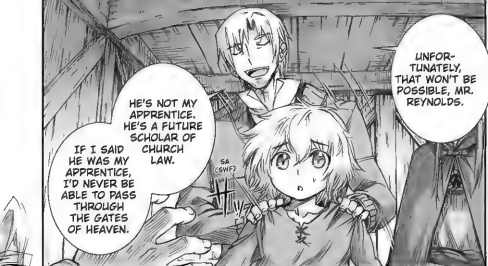
YOU'VE GOT
YOURSELF
A FINE
APPRENTICE
THERE, MR.
LAWRENCE.

A SMART,
OBEDIENT
CHILD IS
LIKE A
GOLDEN
EGG.



WHOA!





IF I SAID
HE WAS MY
APPRENTICE,
I'D NEVER BE
ABLE TO PASS
THROUGH
THE GATES
OF HEAVEN.

HE'S NOT MY
APPRENTICE.
HE'S A FUTURE
SCHOLAR OF
CHURCH
LAW.

UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
THAT WON'T BE
POSSIBLE, MR.
REYNOLDS.



SU
(SHF)



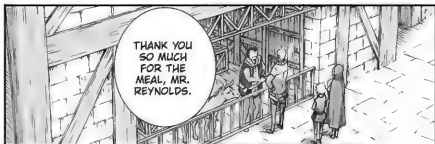
MY
GOODNESS...

HRMMMM...
I SEE WHY
THAT WOLF
OF A WOMAN
WOULD PUT
HER TRUST IN
YOU IF YOU'RE
TRAVELING
WITH SUCH
A TALENTED
YOUNGSTER.



SO, THEN,
IS THIS ONE
FROM A FAMOUS
CONVENT
SOMEWHERE?





SPICE & WOLF









THE
COPPER
COINS,
EH?



SINCE WE
LEARNED WHAT
WE NEEDED TO
KNOW SO EASILY,
IT LOOKS LIKE
WE WON'T NEED
TO USE OUR
TRUMP CARD.



THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
THAT THE JEAN
COMPANY IS UP
TO SOMETHING,
BUT...



FIFTY-EIGHT
BOXES PACKED
WITH COPPER COINS
COMING DOWN THE
RIVER HAD BECOME
SIXTY BOXES ON
THEIR WAY TO
THE KINGDOM
OF WINFIEL.



I'M
SORRY...

—I STILL
CAN'T QUITE
EXPLAIN IT
YET.....

...ABOUT ALL
WE CAN DO
IS GATHER
INFORMATION
WITHOUT
DRAWING
SUSPICION.

NOW
THEN,
AS FAR
AS THIS
ALL
GOES...

AND
GO BACK
TO EVE
AND
THANK
HER!

ぽん (PAT)

ぽん
ぽん

...YOU
CAN JUST
TELL ME ONCE
OUR JOURNEY'S
OVER, BY WAY
OF THANKS.

WELL, IF
THERE'S NO
REASON TO
USE IT...

—THAT'S BECAUSE
IT WOULD BE BAD IF
SOMEONE FOUND OUT
WE WERE HUNTING
DOWN THE BOOK IN
EARNEST...RIGHT?

...THEY'LL
START TO
WONDER
IF WE'VE
DISCOVERED
SOME KIND
OF KEY.

SO IF
WE KEEP
SEARCHING
TOO
SERIOUSLY
...

...MAY WELL
BE BECAUSE
HE'S ALREADY
THOUGHT THE
WHOLE THING
THROUGH AND
COME TO HIS
OWN CONCLU-
SIONS.

THE
REASON
REYNOLDS
TOLD
US SO
MUCH...



WELL,
DOUBTLESS
HE WAS HIDING
SOMETHING.

EH?



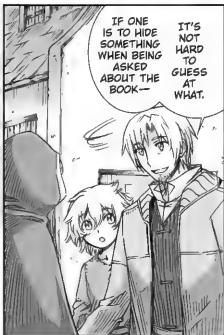
BUT
WE'RE UP
AGAINST A
MERCHANT.

THEY SAY
A FEARSOME
HAWK IS ONE
THAT HIDES
ITS TALONS.



KUH
FU
FU!

HIDING
ONE'S EARS
WITHOUT
HIDING ONE'S
TAIL, EH?



IF ONE
IS TO HIDE
SOMETHING
WHEN BEING
ASKED
ABOUT THE
BOOK—

IT'S
NOT HARD
TO GUESS
AT WHAT.









THAT'S
BECAUSE
I AM YOUR
FOOD.



I AM ALWAYS
THINKING
ABOUT YOU,
AS WELL!



SO
YOU'LL
LOOSEN
YOUR PURSE
STRINGS
A BIT FOR
ME?



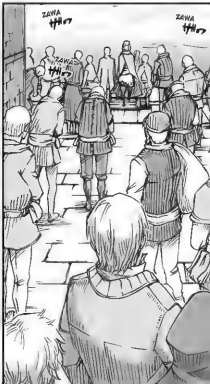
DID YOU
PUT COL
UP TO
THAT?

KUH
FUI
FUI!



TH-
THANK
YOU IN
ADVANCE
FOR THE
FOOD.







YES, AS
A BIT OF
A BREAK
FROM
WORK.



...BUT MAYBE
SIGHTSEEING
COMES FIRST.

I THOUGHT
FOR SURE
YOU'D
HEADED TO
THE SOUTH
SIDE...





THEY'RE NOT INVOLVED IN BUYING OR SELLING GOODS.

ARE THEY MERCHANTS?

THEY'RE FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF TOWN.



— BUT
THEY'RE
AWFULLY
GOOD AT
BOOK-
KEEPING.





IS TODAY
A FESTIVAL
DAY OR
SOMETHING?

WAI
CHATTERO

ワッ
ワッ



WOW
...!



EH-
HEHN!

I HAVE BEEN TO
TOWNS WHERE
THEY'RE LIKE
THIS THROUGH
AND THROUGH.



'TIS HARDLY
THE ONLY
PLACE SO
CROWDED,
YOU KNOW.

HMM?



AND THE CROWDS HAVE TURNED UP TO WATCH, YOU SEE.

THE LEADERS OF THE TOWN ARE HAVING THEIR MEETING AT THE "SPRING OF GOLD" TODAY.

...YOU SAID SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR.

AS I RECALL, WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED PAZZIO...



LOOK,
THAT BRIDGE
THERE.



THERE'S A
SPRING?



IT WAS
PROBABLY
AROUND THEN
THAT THE
BRIDGE CAME
TO BE CALLED
THE "SPRING
OF GOLD."

THEN A
CHANNEL
WAS DUG
THROUGH
IT, AND A
BRIDGE BUILT
OVER IT.

LONG AGO,
THERE
WAS A
POND HERE
THAT WAS
A HAVEN
FOR BIRDS
AND FISH.

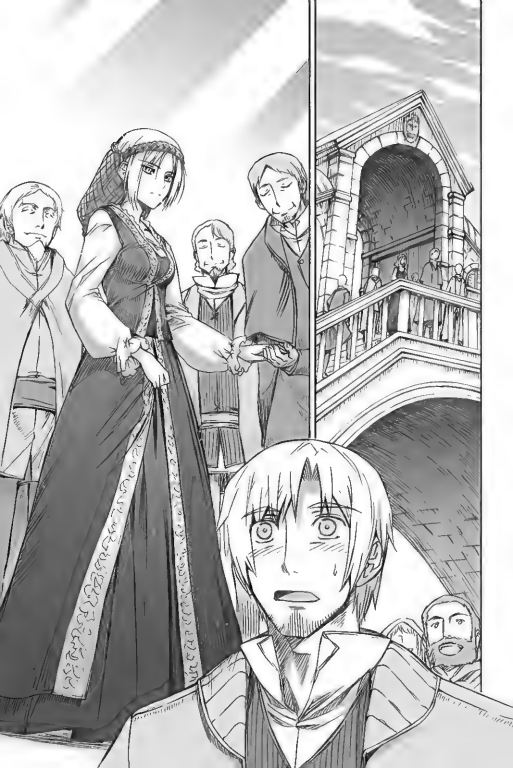


!



...THE
DECISIONS
OF THE MEETING
MUST BE
RATHER
IMPORTANT.
SO IT MAKES
SENSE FOR IT
TO DRAW A
CROWD.

A
MEETING,
EH...? IF
THEY'RE
HOLDING
IT IN
SUCH A
VISIBLE
LOCATION...





YOU'VE
SOME
NERVE,
WATCHING
ANOTHER
FEMALE
RIGHT IN
FRONT
OF ME.







BE
CAREFUL
THAT HOLO
DOESN'T
HAVE TOO
MUCH
WINE.

THIS
SHOULD BE
MORE THAN
ENOUGH FOR
ALL THE FOOD
AND DRINK
YOU COULD
WANT.

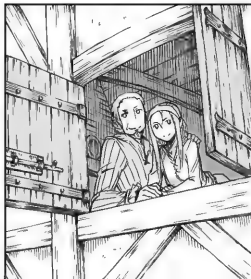


NOW
THEN,
SHALL
WE HAVE
A LOOK
AROUND?

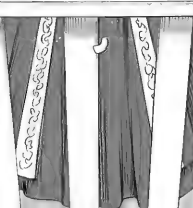


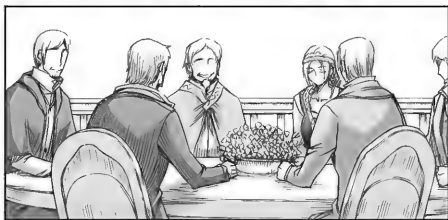
I'M LUCKY
COL'S HERE...







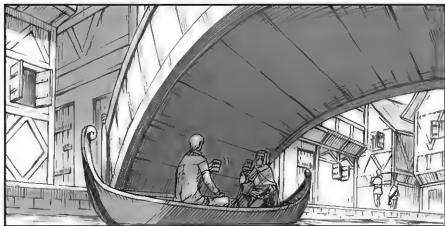








SPICE & WOLF







A MEETING'S
CONCLUSION
ALWAYS
COMES
FROM
SOMEWHERE
OUTSIDE
THE PAR-
TICIPANTS.



NOT TO
PUT TOO
FINE A
POINT
ON IT.



YOU WERE
QUITE LOVELY
IN THE OPEN
LIKE THAT...
BUT THEY'VE
ENTRUSTED
THEIR UNDER-
THE-TABLE
DEALINGS TO
YOU AS WELL,
I HEAR?



IF I SAID
IT MADE
ME HAPPY
YOU WERE
HONESTLY
ENVOIOUS,
WOULD
YOU
LAUGH?



.....I'M
WONDERING
WHY YOU'D
BOTHR IDLING
AROUND ON
A BOAT WITH
ME, THEN.



I'D
LAUGH,
ALL
RIGHT.



THE TRUTH
IS, I WAS
RATHER
MELANCHOLY
ABOUT HAVING
BEEN SUMMONED
BY THAT LOT.



I'LL ROW,
THEN.

SHALL WE
CONTINUE
THIS ON THE
WAY TO THE
PIER? IT'LL
BE CLOSING
SOON.

I WAS
RIGHT TO
SPOT YOU
AND CALL
YOU OVER.









SO THEY BRAGGED THEY WOULD CONSTRUCT THEIR OWN MARKET.

THEY THOUGHT THAT IF THEY SOLD THE LAND, IT WOULD BE A HUGE LOSS.

...HOWEVER, THE LAND-OWNERS WERE A LITTLE SHORT ON WISDOM.

—EVEN IF IT DROVE THEM INTO A DEEP DEBT.



YES.

THE MEN AT THE MEETING ARE THE SONS OF THE ONES WHO BORROWED THE MONEY AND THOSE WHO LENT IT.



GUL (GULP)



I SEE... THE LAND-HOLDERS WERE FROM THE NORTH.

THE MONEY-LENDERS WERE FROM THE SOUTH?





THE
ANSWER IS
SIMPLE.

A SCAPE-
GOAT.



YES...
IT WAS
SHABBIER
THAN I
EXPECTED.



YOU SAW
REYNOLDS'S
PLACE,
DIDN'T
YOU?

STILL,
I DON'T
HAVE A
MONOPOLY
ON MIS-
FORTUNE.

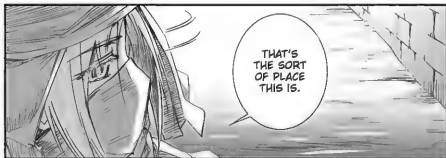


...BUT EVEN
A PLACE THAT
DEALS ONLY
IN COPPER
EXPORTS HAS
ITS PROFIT
SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
POWERS
THAT BE.



KUH!
KUH!

AT LEAST BE
A LITTLE MORE
CIRCUMSPECT
ABOUT IT!



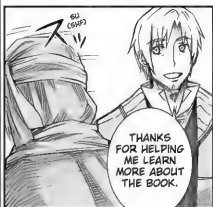
THAT'S
THE SORT
OF PLACE
THIS IS.



HO
THERE!

AH,
IT'S
THE
BOAT-
MAN.

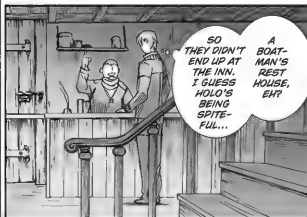




SPICE & WOLF











DID
YOU HEAR
MORE ABOUT
THAT VIXEN'S
CIRCUM-
STANCES?





YOU'RE A
CENTURY TOO
YOUNG TO TRY
LYING TO ME.



...TIS
A BIT
COLD.



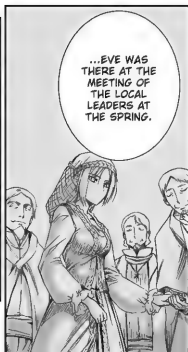
IF YOU'RE
TRIPPED UP
BY SUCH A
RUSE, YOU'VE
MUCH TO
LEARN YET.

I'LL
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.



GYUMU
(CREAK)







LISTEN
HERE,
YOU.

?



IF A
MERCHANT
LIKE HER CAN
BE TREATED
LIKE THAT...



...IT
MAKES ME
WONDER
WHAT'LL
BECOME
OF ME...



—AND IT'S
JUST...

...SAD.



...I
SEE.

LISTENING
TO YOU TALK
MADE ME
MAD ENOUGH
FOR TWO.



FIRSTLY...

...BY YOUR
REASONING,
I'M A PATHETIC
FOOL FOR
BEING YOUR
COMPANION.

BAFU!
(CLUMP)



BUT NOW
LOOKING AT
YOUR FACE,
I'M THRICE
ANGRY.

GA
(CLATTER)



WELL,
YOU EAT
ENOUGH
FOR FIVE,
SO YOU'VE
GOT TWO
LEFT TO
GO—

UGH

GA
(WHOW)



AND AS
FOR THE
LAST...

SH
GISH
(CREAK)



I WON'T
ARGUE.




WHAT
ARE YOU,
A PUP?

SECONDLY,
DESPAIRING
AT SUCH
A FOOLISH
NOTION?



...WHEN
ON YOUR
FACE—!?

...MY
FACE?



...TO SEE
YOU TURN
TAIL AND
BEHAVE IN A
MANNER SO
UNBECOMING
A FULL-
GROWN
MALE...



...YOUR
FACE SAYS
YOU COULD
GO OFF ON
YOUR OWN
AT ANY
MOMENT.

YOU SPEAK
OF SUCH
WEAKNESS,
AND YET...



BUT IF I LOOKED AS
THOUGH I COULDN'T
CONTINUE ON ALONE,
YOU'D RAIL AT ME
WITHOUT MERCY,
WOULD YOU NOT?



I'D JUST AS
SOON AVOID
THAT...

NATU-
RALLY, I
WOULD!

I'D RAIL
AT YOU,
TOY WITH
YOU, AND
TEASE
YOU!



...AYE.

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
MEAN,
ISN'T IT?

WHENEVER
I DECIDE
SOMETHING,
I'LL CONSULT
WITH YOU.





AND I
AM TIRED
OF IT.



AND FOR
LONG AGES,
I COULDN'T
LOOK BACK.



WHEN
PEOPLE
ARE
STRONG,
THEY DO
NOT LOOK
BACK.



EVEN WHEN
CONFESSING
HER WEAKNESS,
THE WISEWOLF
OF YOITSU
DOES SO IN
GRAND
FORM.



SO
DON'T
WORRY
ON THAT
COUNT.

I'M
CONSTANTLY
LOOKING
OVER MY
SHOULDER,
TERRIFIED.

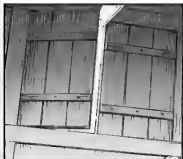


.....
REALLY,
NOW.

I'M
TIRED
OF THAT
TOO!



.....STILL,
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
STRANGE?



AT
SOME POINT,
I SEEM TO
HAVE BECOME
THE ONE WHO
COMFORTS
YOU.

'TIS MY
PARTICULAR
PRIVILEGE,
THAT IS
WHY!



HONESTLY



...I
HATE THAT
THINGS ARE
CHANGED LEFT
AND RIGHT
WITHOUT MY
THOUGHTS
BEING
SOLICITED.

DESPITE
YOUR
OFFERING
TO ME...



A
PRAYER
FOR
WHAT?



HA
HA
HA...

I SHOULD
THINK ONE IS
NECESSARY
FOR PRAYER.



SO MY
FEELINGS
ARE AN
OFFERING?



...OH,
YOU.

THAT IT
WILL BE A
BIT LONGER
BEFORE THE
BOY COL
RETURNS
FROM
SHOPPING.



DA
PA
DASH

DA

DA



AYE,
I'M GLAD
YOU'VE
RETURNED.

I'M
BACK!

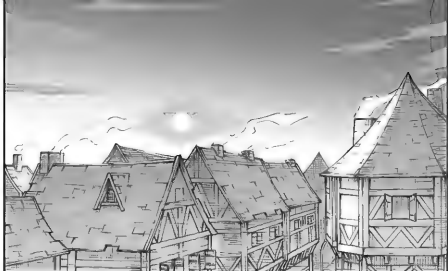
I'M GOOD!
I'M GOOD!

I BOUGHT
WINE FOR
YOU TOO, MR.
LAWRENCE!

WELL
DONE,
COL.



HA
HA
HA...





.....IT
SEEMS
NOT.



SO THAT
VIXEN IS
NOT SOME
SORT OF
EXCEPTION.



SO DOES
SHE WANT
TO USE YOU
TO GET THE
BEST OF MR.
REYNOLDS,
THEN?



GIVING ME
A LETTER
TO SHOW TO
THE JEAN
COMPANY WAS
PROBABLY
PART OF HER
PLAN.



COULD YOU
SHOW US
ANY OF THE
LETTERS
RELATING TO
AQUENT?



THAT'S
SURELY WHAT
REYNOLDS
THINKS, SO
HE'LL BE ON
GUARD.

BUT
WHAT YOU
SAID BACK
THERE MAY
ACTUALLY
BE BETTER
FOR US,
COL.



BECAUSE
NO ONE IN
THAT VIXEN'S
EMPLOY WOULD
JUST COME
OUT AND SAY
SOMETHING
SO NAIVE.







COL WOULD POSE
AS A TRAVELING
BEGGAR AND
HEAD TO THE
NORTH SIDE TO
FIND OUT WHAT
THE OTHER
BEGGARS HAD TO
SAY ABOUT THE
JEAN COMPANY.

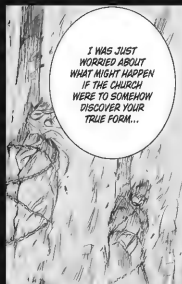
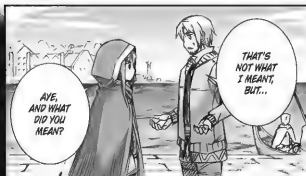


HOLO WOULD
MAKE FOR THE
SOUTH-SIDE
CHURCH.



...SHE WOULD
DETERMINE
THE CHURCH'S
INFLUENCE AND
MOVEMENTS
IN THE UPPER
REGIONS OF
THE ROEF AND
ROAM RIVERS,
NOT TO MENTION
THE FOREST OF
YOITSU WHILE
SHE WAS AT IT.

PRETENDING
TO BE A
NUN ON A
PILGRIMAGE
NORTH...







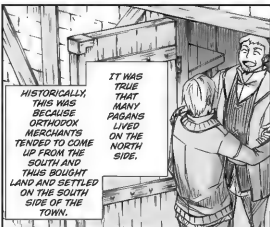




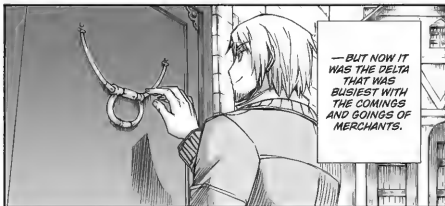
KERUBE HAD
CHURCHES
ONLY ON
THE DELTA
AND THE
SOUTH SIDE.



HISTORICALLY,
THIS WAS
BECAUSE
ORTHODOX
MERCHANTS
TENDED TO COME
UP FROM THE
SOUTH AND
THUS BOUGHT
LAND AND SETTLED
ON THE SOUTH
SIDE OF THE
TOWN.



IT WAS
TRUE
THAT
MANY
PAGANS
LIVED
ON THE
NORTH
SIDE.



—BUT NOW IT
WAS THE DELTA
THAT WAS
BUSIEST WITH
THE COMINGS
AND GOINGS OF
MERCHANTS.







OF COURSE
THERE WERE
GUILD MEMBERS
THERE...
DO THEY
CARE WHAT I
WAS PAYING
ATTENTION
TO?



YES,
I SAW
RATHER AN
INTERESTING
SHOW
THERE.



FROM
WHAT I HEARD,
THE LANDOWNERS
OF THE NORTH
SIDE ARE SO
MANY FISH,
FLOPPING
ABOUT ON
LAND.

SO THERE'S
A STING, IS
THERE?

ONE NEVER KNOWS
WHERE THE STING
MAY BE LAID, EVEN
IN A SEEMINGLY
TRANSPARENT
CONVERSATION.

HEH-HEH-HEH.
AN INTERESTING
SHOW, INDEED,
MR. LAWRENCE—
MOST IMPRESSIVE.
THOUGH A RATHER
IMPENETRABLE
DISPLAY,
EVEN FOR A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT...



THAT
WOULD BE
TRUE...IF OUR
OPPONENTS
WERE ONLY
THE LAND-
OWNERS.



...SEEMS
THERE'S
BEEN A
MISUNDER-
STANDING.



...YOU
CHATTED
WITH A CERTAIN
WOMAN HEAD
OF THE BOLAN
HOUSE AT THE
PIER, DID YOU
NOT?



MR.
LAWRENCE.



THE
HEAD OF
THE BOLAN
HOUSE...
IS SHE
NOBILITY?

I MERELY
HAPPEN TO
BE STAYING
AT THE
SAME INN
AS MISS
EVE.

THIS IS
WHAT I
EXPECTED
SO FAR...
TERRIFYING
THOUGH
IT IS.



—AND
HERE I WAS
SO SURE
YOU WERE
INVOLVED IN
THE MATTER
OF THE
FUR, MR.
LAWRENCE.

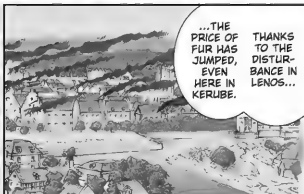
I AM A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT,
SO I'M
OBVIOUSLY
NOT HER
DANCE
PARTNER.



OH?
PERHAPS
I WAS
MISTAKEN.



.....HUH?



...THE
PRICE OF
FUR HAS
JUMPED,
EVEN
HERE IN
KERUBE.

THANKS
TO THE
DISTUR-
BANCE IN
LENOS...

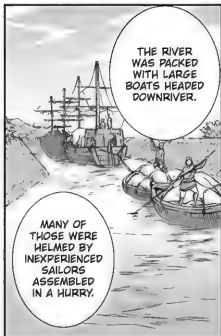


...EVE
BOLAN.

AT
THE FIRST
AUCTION AFTER
THE CHAOS,
THE ONLY ONE
TO OFFER ANY
FUR FOR SALE
WAS...



I SEE...



THE RIVER
WAS PACKED
WITH LARGE
BOATS HEADED
DOWNRIVER.

MANY OF
THOSE WERE
HELMED BY
INEXPERIENCED
SAILORS
ASSEMBLED
IN A HURRY.



NORMALLY,
THE RIVER IS
THE FASTEST
WAY TO GET
FURS FROM
LENOS TO
THE DELTA...

BUT THAT
VIXEN TOOK
AN OVERLAND
ROUTE.



TRAFFIC
ON THE RIVER
ROUTE WAS
DELAYED
SEVERAL
DAYS.

I'M SURE
YOU'RE AWARE
OF THIS
MUCH, MR.
LAWRENCE.

SO HER
GUESS WAS
CORRECT.





...OF
ALL THE
INTERESTED
PARTIES.

SHE'S
PROBABLY
THE ONLY ONE
WHO HAS A
COMPLETE
PICTURE...



I HAD
NO IDEA
SHE WAS
SO...MUCH
MORE THAN
I IMAGINED
HER TO
BE.

.....



NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT
THE IMPACT
OF MAKING A
SINGLE MISTAKE
IN THEIR
DEALINGS
WITH HER
MIGHT BE.



...THAT
YOU'RE NOT
INVOLVED
WITH HER
IN DOING
BUSINESS
HERE.

WELL, MR.
LAWRENCE,
I'VE
CONFIRMED
...

IT'S A BIT
DISAPPOINTING,
BUT AT THE
SAME TIME,
I'M RELIEVED.

AS A
GUILD, WE ARE
AS CAREFUL IN
DEALING WITH
HER AS WE ARE
IN DEALING WITH
THE NORTH
AND SOUTH OF
THIS TOWN.



...I MUST
WONDER
AT WHAT
HISTORY
LED YOU
TO DO
BUSINESS
WITH HER.



STILL



I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE HOPING
TO USE MISS
EVE'S CONTACTS
TO DISCOVER
PROFITABLE
INFORMATION?



HERE IN THIS TOWN,
THERE ARE MANY
WHO WISH TO DEAL
WITH EVE BOLAN,
BUT SHE'S LITTERLY
UNAPPROACHABLE.



I DID NOTHING.
SHE APPROACHED
ME.



I'M SURE
ANYONE WHO
CAN GET A
FAVORABLE
RESPONSE
FROM HER
WILL DO
WELL...



IT WAS
NONE OTHER
THAN EVE WHO
WAS CLASHING
WITH THE
SOUTH SIDE'S
COIN PURSE
MERCENARIES
AT THE
"SPRING OF
GOLD,"
RIGHT?



...AND
THEN WAS
UNABLE TO
PAY THEM
BACK.

SHE
INGRATIATED
HERSELF WITH
THE HEADMEN,
USED THEM,
PROFITED...

OR
PERHAPS
SHE SIMPLY
DIDN'T
WANT
TO.



—AND ONLY
NOW AM I
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY.



HOHH?





I SEE...
AS A
MERCHANT,
EH?



I TAKE
THIS
PROMISE
VERY
SERIOUSLY.



AS A
MERCHANT,
I PROMISED
TO SEE MY
COMPANION,
WHO HAS
FORGOTTEN
THE WAY...

...BACK
TO HER
HOME IN THE
FOREST OF
YOITSU.



INCIDENTALLY,
MR. LAWRENCE—



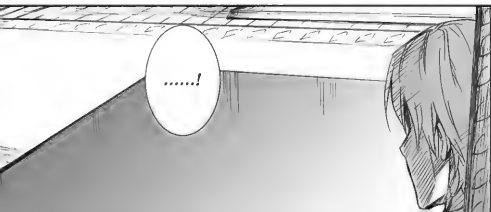
SO
ON THAT
COUNT,
YOU'VE
FOUND
THE RIGHT
PERSON
TO ASK.

I DOUBT
THERE'S
ANYONE WHO
KNOWS MORE
ABOUT THE
ROAM RIVER
REGION THAN
EVE BOLAN.



EVE
BOLAN OR
THE TRADE
GUILD—

YES?



.....!



WHICH
IS YOUR
PRIORITY?



...THE
GUILD...OF
COURSE.

ER,
WELL...



I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET
MY GUARD
DOWN...



AND
LARGE
BUSINESS
REQUIRES
LARGE
CAPITAL.

HUMAN
CONNECTIONS
ARE
ASSETS—
THEY ARE
CAPITAL.



IN THAT CASE,
I'M EXPECTING
YOU TO BEHAVE
IN A MANNER
BEFITTING A
MEMBER OF
THIS GUILD.

—I'VE
COMPLETELY
MISJUDGED
EVE'S
IMPORTANCE
AS WELL.



EVE WAS
ONLY JUST
IN A DIFFICULT
PLACE WITHOUT
ANYWHERE
TO TURN,
YOU SEE.

.....
.....



WH-WHAT
EXACTLY
ARE YOU
...



...IF
YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME.



IT SEEMS I
HAVE OTHER
BUSINESS
TO ATTEND
TO, SO...

BUT I'VE
TAKEN TOO
MUCH OF
YOUR
TIME.



...TELLING
ME TO
DO...?



...AND
THEY MAY
NOT HAVE
LIVED FOR
CENTURIES...

THOUGH
THEY MAY
LACK WOLF
EARS OR
TAILS...



I
FELT THE
TRUTH OF
THAT.

...YOU'LL
SURELY
REGRET
IT.



AH,
YES.
ONE
MORE
THING.

IF YOU
SPEAK OF
THIS TO
ANYONE
ELSE...

...THERE
ARE
PEOPLE IN
THE WORLD
EVERY BIT
HOLO'S
EQUAL.

SPICE & WOLF





SPICE & WOLF







ANYWAY,
WE'RE
HEADING
BACK TO
THE INN.



SOUTHBOUND
BOATS WERE
PACKED FULL
OF PEOPLE
HARDLY TRYING
TO GET
THERE

AYE, 'T WAS
AN AMAZING
COMMOTION.

MOGCHI
(MUNCH)



BUT I
ASSUMED
IT WAS
JUST
TALK OF
INTERNAL
POLITICS.

ACCORDING
TO TALK IN THE
TRADE HOUSE, A
SHIP FROM THE
NORTH SIDE WAS
BEING TOWED
BY A SHIP FROM
A COMPANY ON
THE SOUTH
SIDE.

?



HOW
SHOULD I
KNOW? I TRIED
TO LISTEN TO
THE PEOPLE
AROUND ME,
BUT TO NO
AVAIL.

I THOUGHT
'TWOULD BE
BETTER TO
FIND YOU
AGAIN.



I KNOW
MOST OF THE
STORY, BUT
WHAT COULD
MAKE THE
CHURCH SEND
PEOPLE AWAY
LIKE THAT?



GIVEN THE CONFLICT IN THIS TOWN, I THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER DISPUTE OVER TERRITORY.

WHEN THE FISH HEAD NORTH, THEY FISH IN THE NORTH, AND WHEN THE FISH ARE SOUTH, THEY GO SOUTH.



YOU CAN'T DRAW LINES IN THE SEA, AFTER ALL.



...THEN TO CARRY THAT NOT TO A TRADING COMPANY, BUT TO THE CHURCH—

BUT FOR THEM TO TOW IN A NORTH-SIDE SHIP AND BRING ASHORE SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED ARMED ESCORT...



HMM



A MERMAID?

I WONDER IF THEY REALLY DID CATCH A MERMAID OR SOMETHING.



THEY'RE A KIND OF LEGENDARY CREATURE.



I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T KNOW.



AND
THERE'S
AN OLD
LEGEND
ABOUT
THEM...



AROUND ITS
NORTHERN
MOUTH IS A
REEF WHERE
THERE WERE
CONSTANT
SHIPWRECKS.

THE SEA
IMMEDIATELY
NEXT TO US
IS KNOWN AS
THE WINFIEL
STRAIT.



MERMAIDS
ARE HUMAN
FROM THE
WAIST UP,
BUT BELOW
THAT, THEY
HAVE THE
TAILS OF
FISH.



...THAT
WOMEN WITH
VOICES OF
UNEARTHLY
BEAUTY SING
ENCHANTED SONGS
FROM THAT REEF,
CAUSING SAILORS
TO LOSE THEIR
WAY AND WRECK
THEIR SHIPS
...

BUT
WHAT SORT
OF WOMEN SIT
ON WAVE-
POUNDED
ROCKS LIKE
THAT, YOU
ASK?



HUMAN
MALES
SURELY
ARE EASY
TO FOOL.

HMPH.



AYE, WELL,
WE ENJOY
OUR WINE
AS WELL.



ISN'T IT
BETTER TO
STAY CAREFREE,
RATHER THAN
CONSTANTLY
BEING ON
GUARD FOR
DECEPTIONS?



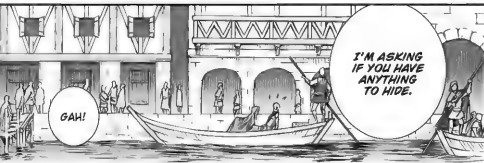
...AND
NOT TO
FALL
INTO
THIS
ONE?

HAVE YOU
SWORN TO
THE GOD OF
THE CHURCH
NOT TO FALL
INTO THAT
TRAP...

HUH?



STILL!



I'M ASKING
IF YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
TO HIDE.

GAH!





AYE.

I CANNOT
HAVE YOU
LOSING
YOUR
WAY.



EVEN IF
I WERE AT
THE TOP OF
THAT LIST, I
ASSUME YOU
WOULDN'T
ADMIT IT,
WOULD YOU?



YOU
SEE?

AYE.



...WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE,
ALL I NEED
DO IS ACT
ACCORDING
TO MY OWN
PRIORITIES.

ANY-
WAY
...

!



MR.
REYNOLDS,
EH-?



THIS PAST
AUTUMN,
HE SAID HE
COULDN'T EVEN
AFFORD TO
EAT WELL AND
HAD FALLEN
TO SAVING
HIS TABLE
SCRAPS.

HE'S
AWFUL STINGY
THESE DAYS,
NOT THAT HE
WAS EVER
MUCH FOR
GENEROSITY.

EVEN
THOUGH
HANDLIN' ALL
THAT COPPER
COIN MEANS HE
WAS RAKIN'
IT IN ALL
ALONG.



NIGH
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

HNNN!
NAH,
CAN'T
BE!

WEE
WEE...



I
SEE...

I'D HEARD
THAT HE
HAD A
FORTUNE
SAVED
AWAY...

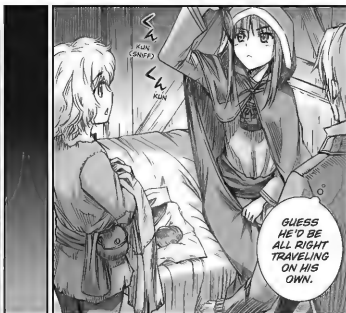


THE CAN-
CELLATION
OF THE
NORTHERN
CAMPAIGNS
HAS COME
AROUND
TO AFFECT
EVEN US!

IT'S
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
BOTHER!









THEN
MAYHAP
THAT FEAST
WAS MEANT
TO COURT
US.

I SEE...
SO THE JEAN
COMPANY IS AS
WE THOUGHT
THEY WERE.



ACCORD-
ING TO
WHAT
KIEMAN
SAID—

...REYNOLDS
MAY WELL
BE PRETTY
CLOSE TO
IT.

QUITE
LIKELY.
IN WHICH
CASE, AS
FAR AS
THE BOOK
GOES...



IT SEEMS
EVE ONLY
SECRETLY
NEGOTIATES
WITH THOSE
WHO CAN MAKE
THE GREATEST
PROFIT IN THAT
PARTICULAR
MOMENT.



...IF YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
THAT VIXEN,
SHE HASN'T
RETURNED
SINCE
YESTERDAY.







IF THAT
JEAN COMPANY
OR WHATEVER
'TIS CALLED
IS SEEKING
THE AID OF
THAT VIXEN...

...THEN WE
HAVE TWO
CHOICES.



.....WHY
SHOULD
THAT
BE?

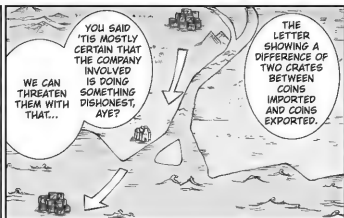


AYE.
ONE IS THE
MYSTERY
OF THE
COPPER COIN
CRATES...

TWO?



ONLY
IF WE CAN
SOLVE THE
MYSTERY
FIRST.



WE CAN
THREATEN
THEM WITH
THAT...

YOU SAID
'TIS MOSTLY
CERTAIN THAT
THE COMPANY
INVOLVED
IS DOING
SOMETHING
DISHONEST,
AYE?

THE
LETTER
SHOWING A
DIFFERENCE OF
TWO CRATES
BETWEEN
COINS
IMPORTED
AND COINS
EXPORTED.



SFX: KUSHA (RUFFLE)







**WE
NEED BUT
SEDUCE
HER.**



...MAKE
NO MISTAKE
THAT SHE'LL
INSTANTLY BE
ON GUARD
AGAINST
HAVING IT
STOLEN
AWAY.

IF WE ASK
HER WHERE
THE BOOK
IS...

**YES.
WHAT
PROFIT
IS THERE
FOR EVE
IN DOING
THAT?**



**WHY
WOULD
SHE...?**





COL, MY
LAD. CLOSE
YOUR EYES
AND COVER
YOUR EARS.



GOKU
(GULP)

IS SHE
SERIOUSLY
TELLING ME
TO SEDUCE
HER...?
I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY!



WH-
WHAT'RE
YOU—

GUL
(GULP)



YOU'RE
TRYING TO
FOOL THIS
WISEWOLF,
AFTER
ALL.

SO IT
SHOULD
BE NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL,
NAY?



I CAN
TELL WHAT
YOU'VE
EATEN BY
SCENT
ALONE.



ALL I CAN
DO IS PRAY
YOU STOP
BEING
SUCH A
RECKLESS
MALE.

I'D THEN
SPEND LESS
EFFORT TRYING
TO TEACH YOU
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWIXT
COURAGE
AND FOOL-
HARDINESS.



AH...





IF THEY WERE TOLD TO PACK THE CRATES TIGHTLY, NO ONE WOULD THINK TO CHECK EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE PACKED DURING EXPORT.



...IT'S ABOUT ONE-THIRTIETH LESS... IN OTHER WORDS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIXTY CRATES AND FIFTY-EIGHT.



IF YOU MEASURE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE AREA BETWEEN COINS...



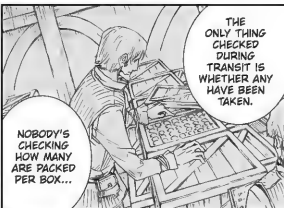
THE SAME NINE COINS ARRANGED TO FIT IN A SMALLER AREA



TAXATION GOES BY THE NUMBER OF CRATES, AS DO TRANSPORT FEES.



NOBODY'S CHECKING HOW MANY ARE PACKED PER BOX...



THE ONLY THING CHECKED DURING TRANSIT IS WHETHER ANY HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

HAS NO ONE ELSE NOTICED THIS?



HMM?

I WONDER THOUGH...

COMMON SENSE IS A TRICKY OPPONENT ...



いんちき



I'LL
AGREE THAT
COL IS A
BRIGHT LAD,
BUT THERE ARE
MANY BRIGHT
PEOPLE IN
THE WORLD.

IF YOU
DID THIS
FOR YEARS,
SURELY YOU'D
EVENTUALLY
MEET SOMEONE
ELSE WHO
KNOWS THE
TRICK?



HMM?

NO,
THERE'S
SOMETHING
VERY
PARTICULAR
NECESSARY
TO NOTICE
THIS.



YES. ONLY
AFTER WE
KNOW THE
DETAILS OF
THE EXPORT
AND IMPORT
CAN WE BEGIN
TO SUSPECT
FOUL PLAY.

EVEN
SOMEONE
WHO LIVES
CAUTIOUSLY
CAN'T INSPECT
EVERY-
THING.



THE
MANIFEST,
RIGHT?





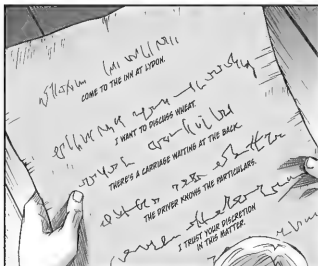








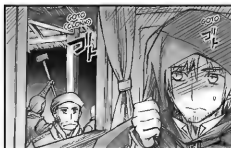
MAKING
THE FIRST
MOVE,
IS SHE?
QUITE THE
VIXEN...



THE
SENDER'S
NAME ISN'T
WRITTEN
HERE.
...IS IT
EVE...?



SHE
WANTS
ME TO
COME
ALONE
...



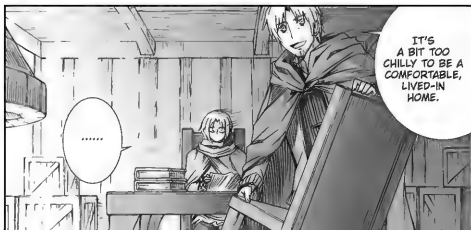


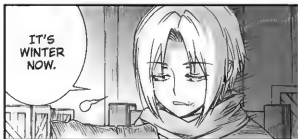


IT'S COLD
OUT THERE.
CLOSE THE
DOOR IF
YOU WOULD.
NO LOCK,
THOUGH.



SURPRISED,
ARE YOU?





STILL,
I IMAGINE
IT'S NICE AND
COOL IN THE
SUMMERTIME.





YOU
WOULD
HIDE YOUR
WEAPONS
OF LAST
RESORT TOO,
WOULD YOU
NOT?



SO, WHY
HERE?



A LAND
TRANSACTION
CONTRACT,
EH?



...I
SUPPOSE
I WOULD.



...ISN'T
BECAUSE I
GOT MIXED
UP IN THIS
CONTRACT.



CERTAINLY,
THE REASON
I'M LOCKED
UP HERE...



IT LOOKS LIKE
SHE REALLY
IS THE ONLY
PERSON THE
NORTH-SIDERS
HAVE TO FIGHT
THE SOUTHERN
MERCHANTS'
ASSOCIATION.



THE
REASON
I CALLED
YOU IS, OF
COURSE—

WELL, YOU
SAW THE
COMMOTION
IN TOWN,
DIDN'T
YOU?

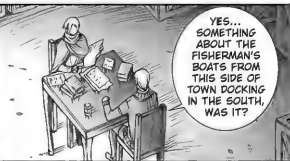


IF THINGS
GO BADLY,
I'LL NEED
MY BREAD
TORN INTO
RATHER
SMALL
PIECES
TONIGHT.

STILL,
I'M GLAD
YOU LET
YOUR-
SELF BE
CAUGHT.



INDEED.
IT'S AS
THOUGH GOD
HIMSELF
TIMED IT.

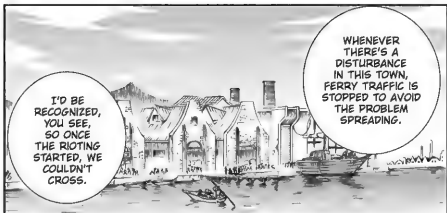


YES...
SOMETHING
ABOUT
THE
FISHERMAN'S
BOATS FROM
THIS SIDE OF
TOWN DOCKING
IN THE SOUTH,
WAS IT?



I JUST
HAPPENED
TO RETURN
HERE
WHEN THE
NEWS
REACHED
ME.

NORMALLY,
I'M ON
THE DELTA.



I'D BE
RECOGNIZED,
YOU SEE,
SO ONCE
THE RIOTING
STARTED, WE
COULDN'T
CROSS.

WHENEVER
THERE'S A
DISTURBANCE
IN THIS TOWN,
FERRY TRAFFIC IS
STOPPED TO AVOID
THE PROBLEM
SPREADING.



AAH...



EVEN
THOUGH OUR
SPIES MADE IT
TO THE SOUTH
SIDE, THERE
WASN'T TIME
FOR THEM TO
RETURN.



WHAT
DID YOU
HEAR, I
WONDER?



I RECKON YOU
WERE AT THAT
DELTA GUILD
HOUSE RIGHT
UP UNTIL THE
LAST MOMENT.



...AS I'M
SURE YOU'VE
GUESSED,
THERE'S
INFORMATION
I NEED.

SO
...









I'VE ONLY
MEAGER COIN
AND GOODS, SADLY,
BUT I'VE MORE
THAN ENOUGH
CONNECTIONS
AND INFLUENCE.
IT'LL BE A GOOD
FOOTING FOR
BUSINESS.



THE STORY
OF THIS
CONTRACT
WAS TOLD TO
ME BY THE
LOT THAT
LOCKED
ME UP IN
HERE...

...AND THEIR
BELLIES ARE
TOO LARGE FOR
THEM TO FIT
THROUGH
ITS PATHS.



...YES,
A YOKE.

AND NOT A
YOKE?"

※ A TOOL USED TO HOLD ANIMALS LIKE HORSES OR OXEN IN PLACE WHEN PULLING CARTS. IT RESTRICTS THEIR MOVEMENT.



...HOW I
GOT THIS
WOUND?

AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO ASK...



WELL
PLAYED.



HOW'D
YOU GET
IT?



BUT I'M
ALSO NOT
BADLY
PLACED TO
CROSS THAT
DANGEROUS
BRIDGE.

IT'S NOT
THAT I'M
ASKING YOU
ONLY BECAUSE
YOU'RE IN
THE BEST
POSITION.



INDEED.
MY CON-
VERSATIONS
WITH MY
COMPANION
CUT ME TO
THE BONE.



IT'S MORE
ADVANTAGEOUS
TO EXPLOIT
THIS WEAKNESS
THAN IT IS TO
PROTECT
YOU.



THERE'S
NO LONGER
MUCH
DOUBT.



...WAS A
NARWHAL.

WHAT THE
NORTH-SIDE
FISHERMEN
BROUGHT IN
FROM THE
OCEAN...



DON'T WORRY.
HE'S NOT SUCH
CHEAP HELP
THAT HE'D
EAVESDROP
ON ME.



A
NAR
—!



A NARWHAL?
AS IN THE
IMMORTAL
SORT?

YES. A
HORNED SEA
MONSTER.



...EVEN
THOUGH
THEY DID
THIS TO
ME.



THE
PEOPLE
WHO
LOCKED
ME UP
HERE ARE
TERRIFIED
I'LL GET
ANGRY...




I'D HEARD
THAT WITHOUT
FREEZING WATER
THEY DIE, SO
HOW WOULD ONE
MAKE IT THIS
FAR SOUTH?

EATING ITS
FLESH BRINGS
LONGEVITY, AND
ITS POWDERED
HORN CURES
ALL DISEASES.



THOUGH
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
HEARD OF IT
HAPPENING
WITH A
NARWHAL.



ACCORDING
TO THE SAILORS,
DEPENDING ON
THE SEVERITY OF
THE WEATHER,
FISH AND OTHER
CREATURES
CAN BE DRIVEN
SOUTH.



AND
IF IT GOES
BADLY, THERE
WOULD BE
WAR.



YES.



.....BUT
SURELY
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN...

THE SOUTH
SIDE WANTS TO
MAINTAIN THEIR
CONTROL, SO
THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING TO
STAY ON EQUAL
FOOTING.

THE NORTH
SIDE BELIEVES
THEY CAN TURN
EVERYTHING
AROUND.

IF THEY
SELL THE
NARWHAL,
THEY'LL
HAVE MONEY
TO PAY THEIR
DEBTS AND
MORE.



THEY'LL
STEAL
IT, THEN
SELL IT.
TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE.

SO THE
SOUTH CAN'T
LET THEM
HAVE IT,
NO MATTER
THE COST.



SO
WILL YOU
DO IT?

...NO,
WAIT.



THAT'S WHY
THEY TOOK IT TO
THE CHURCH. TO
AVOID HAVING IT
TAKEN BY FORCE
OF ARMS.



...DON'T
YOU THINK
SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE
AWAITS
YOU ON
THE OTHER
SIDE?

—IF YOU
CAN SLIP
THROUGH
THIS
PASSAGE...

WHAT
WILL IT
TAKE TO
CONVINCE
YOU TO
DO IT?

SHE'S
RIGHT.



NOT AT ALL. I'M PLEASED MY GUESS WAS RIGHT.



ARE YOU ANGRY?



YOU KNEW, AND YOU STILL WROTE ME THAT LETTER ...



THERE AREN'T MANY IN THE NORTH WHO CAN AFFORD WOOD FOR THEIR FIREPLACES. MOST BURN PEAT.



AND YET I HEAR THERE'S MORE CHARITY ON THIS SIDE.



KUH!
KUH!

THAT LAD WILL BE POPULAR NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES.



GABA (CRUTTLE)

BOU (WHOOSHO)





I'M
SURE
IT IS.



SO
WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?

IT'S
QUITE AN
OPPORTUNITY,
I FEEL.



HE'S
A GREAT
MERCHANT.



DID
YOU SEE
KIEMAN?

SO?

HOW
WERE YOU
TREATED AT
THE GUILD
HOUSE?

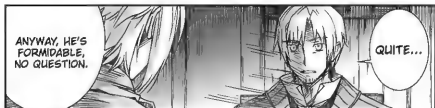


SO WHY DO
YOU MENTION
MR. KIEMAN?



OH,
INDEED.
THERE'S A
GIFTED
TRADER IN
EVERY
GUILD.

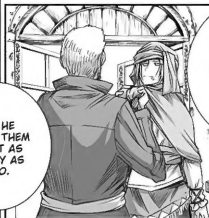
AND
HE'S
THE ONE.



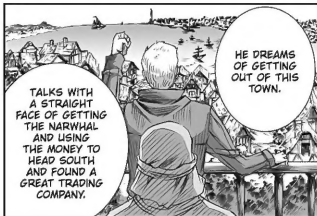




AND HE
HOLDS THEM
ABOUT AS
DEARLY AS
I DO.



HE'S
TWO YEARS
YOUNGER THAN
ME, BUT HIS
WITS AND DRIVE
FOR WEALTH
ARE ABOUT
THE SAME
AS MINE.



TALKS WITH
A STRAIGHT
FACE OF GETTING
THE NARWHAL
AND USING
THE MONEY TO
HEAD SOUTH
AND FOUND A
GREAT TRADING
COMPANY.

HE DREAMS
OF GETTING
OUT OF THIS
TOWN.



THEN HIT ME
AND GRABBED
MY SHOULDER.

"WITH YOU,
I COULD
OUTWIT THE
OLD MEN!"
HE YELLED.



I MUST
TURN ON HIM,
MUSTN'T I?



WILL
YOU
COME
WORK
FOR
ME?

SO I'LL
ASK YOU
ONE MORE
TIME, KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

Special Thanks !!

MR. YOSHIOKI OKAMOTO, MR. TETSUO
TOI, MR. YASUNARI, MR. N-TA, MR. A.

To be continued in Volume 10...

I turn around, and suddenly we're at Volume 9!
Koume-san's Eve is so clever and surprisingly
adorable that she makes my heart beat faster! I
can't take my eyes off the story. Hang in there!

支倉凍砂
ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume
9 going on sale! Now that
Eve's finally shown up,
I'm more sucked into the
story than ever before.
I can't wait to see how
the manga version of
the story takes shape.



SPICE & WOLF 9

ISUNA HASEKURA

KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:

JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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OOKAMI TO KOUSHINRYOU Vol. 9

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